State /UT	Scrub
Tripura	150
Uttar Pradesh	1,170
West Bengal	109
A&N Islands	—
Chandigarh	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	12
Daman & Diu	—
Lakshdweep*	—
Pondicherry*	—
Total	57,211

*No discernible forest cover.

Deforestation for construction of Highway

†1005. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal regarding deforestation of 107 hectare of forest land for construction of Kotdwar-Kalagarh-Ram Nagar Motor highway in Garhwal district of Uttar Pradesh is pending with the Central Government; and

(b) by when the said proposal is likely to be approved; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The proposal for diversion of 63.894 hectares of forest land for construction of Kotdwar-Kalagarh-Ram Nagar Motor road in district Pauri, Uttar Pradesh has been approved in-principle on 22.11.1999

Poaching of Tigers and Elephants

1006. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as reported in the Asian Age, (Delhi Age) of April 29, 1999, poaching of tigers and elephants in India is directly linked with a reach to lucrative market in Japan for the parts and products of these animals; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure that marketing of these products is banned in Japan and other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) Japan is one of the largest consumers of Ivory and Tiger derivatives, however it is difficult to establish any link with poaching in India.

(b) The Tiger and Asiatic Elephant are listed in the Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora [CITES]. Accordingly no international trade in parts and products of these species is allowed. Both India and Japan are signatory to CITES. Various measures taken by the Government to curb poaching of tiger and trafficking of its various body parts are enlisted in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Steps Taken by the Government of India to Protect Tiger

National Level:

1. Setting up of a National Coordination Committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like Customs, Revenue Intelligence, Indo-Tibbetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Coast Guards, State Police, Deputy Director, Wildlife Preservation & Scientific Organisations like Zoological and Botanical Survey of India.

2. Training programmes and Workshops have been organiszed to sensitize the above departments to be proactive in control of trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

3. A special co-ordination committee with Secretary (E&F), Special Secretary (Home), Director, CBI and representative of the Chairman, Central Board of Excise & Customs has been created to ensure better co-ordination in the efforts to curb smuggling of wildlife products.

4. Central assistance is being provided to State Government to strengthen the protection infrastructure including armed squads, vehicles, communication network and co-ordination between the Park managers. Government of India has earmarked approximately Rs. 20 crores for this purpose.

5. Schemes for awards and rewards for outstanding performance and acts of valour has been introduced to encourage detection and reporting.

6. The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.

7. Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-Government Organisations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.

8. Supporting programmes of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Mannual for tiger parts and products.

9. Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.

10. Site specific special force in Project Tiger Areas.

International Level:

1. Initiated creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries, i.e. Global Tiger Forum for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

2. To control transboundary trade and effect mutual cooperation in Tiger conservation:—

   (i) A protocal has been signed with People's Republic of China.

   (ii) An MOU with His Majesty's Government of Nepal has been signed.

   (iii) Dialogue with Bangladesh has been initiated.

3. Several resolutions at CITES to check illegal trade in tiger parts and products have been adopted at India's initiative.

4. The Millennium Tiger Declaration.

Polluting by thesel engines

1007. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: